

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

NURSING PROFESSION (WAGES AND HOURS) BILL.

On February 22nd, the Nursing Profession read with considerable surprise the announcement in the Public Press that a Bill had been introduced into the House of Commons to restrict the hours of work of all Registered Nurses and containing other provisions not calculated to promote the progress and interests of the Profession. It was ascertained that none of the Nurses' Organisations had been consulted regarding the drafting and subsequent introduction of the Bill; it only remained to them to take what steps were possible to prevent undesirable legislation. On February 23rd we went to the Lobby of the House of Commons with a view to, if possible, putting our opinions before Members of Parliament and on the 24th, the following letter was sent from the Corporation to all members of the House of Commons:—

SIR,—

I am instructed, on the following grounds, to ask you to do what lies in your power to oppose the NURSING PROFESSION (WAGES AND HOURS) BILL, introduced by Mr. Fenner Brockway, which is to come up for its second reading to-morrow (Wednesday).

(a) Registered Nurses have never been consulted in connection with this Bill.

(b) Under Clause 2 no Registered Nurse in private practice will have freedom of action in making a contract with her patient. The result of the provisions of this Clause will be that the sick in their own homes, in nursing homes and elsewhere, will not only be encouraged but compelled to employ unregistered nurses because of the restrictive conditions under which they will be required to employ those who are fully qualified and Registered by the State.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary,

Royal British Nurses' Association.

We also sent the following letter to the Press:—

SIR,—State Registered Nurses in independent practice view with grave concern the legislation which it is proposed to set up under the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill introduced by Mr. Fenner Brockway.

The effect of the passage of this Bill will be to place the Registered Nurse in a most unfair position in relation to that of a nurse who is not fully qualified, or who has failed to have her name placed on the State Register. But the most serious aspect of the proposed legislation is its effect on the interests of large numbers of sick people who, either from necessity or choice, are nursed in their own homes.

The result of restricting the services of each Registered Nurse to eight hours out of the twenty-four, while she is on attendance with a patient, will either involve the patient

in an expenditure for nurses far beyond what it is necessary or possible for him to meet or the nurse will be compelled to break the law rather than disappear at the end of eight hours, leaving the treatment of her patient to be carried out, without supervision, by those incompetent to undertake it.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary,

Royal British Nurses' Association.

194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

In another part of the JOURNAL Mr. Brockway's Bill is subjected to a critical analysis so that we have confined ourselves to reporting to our Members only those steps taken from their own Headquarters to protect the interests and freedom of State Registered Nurses. The effect of the passage of the Bill, as introduced by Mr. Brockway, would be to establish a very unfavourable economic position for Registered Nurses as compared with that of unregistered nurses to whom the provisions of the Bill do not apply.

RAMBLERS' VISIT TO THE KERAMA STUDIO.

On Monday, February 9th, the Ramblers enjoyed the privilege of visiting the studio of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Norton, who are well known in the modern movement for the revival of the art of pottery. This is one of the oldest of the arts and has of recent years formed a feature of many of our art exhibitions, owing very largely to the enthusiasm of a number of artists who feel that it can be made a most admirable medium for expression. The time they have chosen for the revival of the art is favourable because the stereotyped character of the productions of manufacturers is well recognised. These can hardly be described as otherwise than stereotyped, being, as they are, simply the result of a division of labour and machinery. There has always been a certain number of people who have treasured the art of pottery as it existed before the arrival of this mechanical age, and there are still people who are ready to appreciate good modern hand-worked pottery.

After a very delightful tea in the large studio, the nurses inspected many lovely and artistic things and especially admired the lovely vases and exquisite and original figures. Afterwards they descended to the pottery, where they saw the throwing-wheel, kiln, etc. It was fascinating to watch a lump of clay transformed by the skilful fingers of Mrs. Norton into a form of beauty. She pointed out that nothing would be done to mar its shape in any way and whatever glaze was applied would be used only for purposes of enhancing its beauty. Ornament for ornament's sake, Mrs. Norton contends, is mistaken art, and the effort is always made to bring about the best relationship of glaze and "body." This is achieved usually round about a temperature of 1,300 Centigrade in high-fired "stoneware" and porcelain. One noteworthy example of this treatment was a very beautiful blue glaze on a deep red clay, resulting in a great variety of colour, shading from deep violet to

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